

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 31

20 January 1986

FRANCE

Secret Admirer

A book exposes a double life

It began just the way a good spy story should. Early in 1981 an unnamed Frenchman walked into the Paris headquarters of the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire, the French counterintelligence agency, carrying a letter that he said he had been asked to smuggle out of Moscow. The letter, written in French, was from a senior officer of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, who was offering to spy for the French. All he wanted in return, the letter said, was a chance to live in France, a country he remembered fondly from the time he had been stationed in the Soviet embassy in Paris 15 years earlier.



Soviet diplomats leaving Farewell's favorite city after their expulsion in 1983

He was perhaps the most valuable informant the West ever had inside the KGB.

The French were initially suspicious of the voluntary double agent. But those doubts evaporated when they received their first batch of documents from the would-be defector, which were smuggled out by two French engineers. They included photocopies of what proved to be top-secret Western reports, presumably stolen by the KGB.

Thus began the exploits of a secret agent who may have been one of the most valuable informants that the West has ever had inside the Soviet intelligence behemoth. Ironically, he had approached French authorities about defecting when he lived in Paris, but they had rejected him because they feared he might be a double agent actually working for the Soviets. This time, impressed by his continued determination, the French intelligence agents gave the KGB man the code name Farewell. The existence of the master spy had been a closely held secret until last week, when the story was disclosed in a new book, *The KGB in France*, by Journalist Thierry Wolton. The French government declined to comment on the case, but sources close to French intelligence confirmed that most of what Wol-

ton had uncovered about the secret agent in his 2½-year investigation into Soviet activities in France is true.

According to Wolton, French President François Mitterrand personally told President Ronald Reagan about Farewell when the two leaders met at the Western economic summit in Ottawa in July 1981. France's willingness to share this information with the U.S. may have helped remove the Reagan Administration's distrust of Mitterrand's newly elected Socialist government, which at the time included four Communist ministers in the Cabinet.

The information Farewell provided was particularly valuable because he was a member of Directorate T, the section of the KGB that tracks Western technology. That vantage point allowed him to provide a behind-the-scenes look at the Soviet effort to steal Western technology.

Over an 18-month period, the agent

reportedly passed along 4,000 top-secret documents from inside the KGB archives, some of them supposedly annotated by Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev and by Yuri Andropov, who was then head of the KGB and was later to become Communist Party General Secretary. This information revealed that the Soviets had bought, borrowed and stolen more than 400,000 valuable technical papers and 30,000 pieces of equipment from the West since the early 1970s.

Farewell also handed over the names and addresses of virtually all KGB agents assigned to high-technology espionage in the West, as well as the names of their recruits, most of them low-level company employees. In April 1983 the French expelled 47 Soviet diplomats on charges of spying. The same year an additional 101 Soviet diplomats were also sent packing from other Western nations. Farewell, unfortunately, never made it back to his beloved France. Intelligence sources in Paris believe that his cover was blown during an investigation that followed his arrest for murder. He was executed in 1984.

—By Janice C. Simpson. Reported by William Dowell/Paris

STAT